Sixth Street -

Tuesday Night - 14/11/48 -

My dear Gray -

I have been dining & spending the Evening with Brother Sam, & on my way down to his house, I called at the College on our friend Torrey who told me that he was sending a Package to you tomorrow ~~in~~ which your Carpet Bag might be included, without extra Charge, & which I therefore embrace the opportunity of returning, with many thanks. It is a fortnight, to-day, since I quitted your hospitable roof, & but that I had nothing to say worth postage, you would have heard from me before this - Indeed, I have been several times tempted to write that I might have the pleasure of repeating my sense of your, & dear Mrs Gray's kindness to me - on which I think with much pleasure & gratitude; You both would have been in a fidget had you known the miserable night I passed on the Water - When we got to Fall River the fog was thick, but grew much denser when we got out, & for about an hour we groped our way, at about one quarter speed, by the aid of the lead-line, with the steam whistle yelling all the time - At length, when about mid-way between Fall River & Newport the Captn dropt Anchor in 10 fathoms water, declaring that he could not, with safety, proceed any further - Some of the Passengers, as usual, were inclined to grumble, but I felt & said that the Captn. was the best judge of what was fitting & had done right - About 10 o'Clk., I think, it came on to blow, & the fog dispersing, we got underway & as I did not myself care for the rough motion of the vessel, experienced no further annoyance - The passengers breakfasted on board & I think I got home about Noon - Brother Sam, I think is doing very comfortably, & has had no return of the bleeding - Torrey's affair still hangs on, for the decision of the Committee - From what he has himself heard there can be little doubt but that he would have walked over the course had his application been earlier. He says he was misinformed as to the time when the appointments were to be made, & Gibbes does not appear to have acted with perfect candour towards him - for it appears that he was using Torrey's influence to procure some appointment (at a distance - I know not where) of larger emolument - $2500 P. Ann. - but never informed Torrey that he & his friends were, at the same time - making efforts for the N. Yk. lectureship - On the other hand, he had no reason to suppose that Torrey wanted it - So stands the matter, as I learn - I have no news for you - Alas! for us poor "Freesoilers"! Not to carry a single State! not even Wisconsin or Vermont! It was too bad - This is altogether a different political atmosphere from yours - & the very bad condition of business played a great game for Taylor & the Tariff men - See what gave him Penna. - The Coal & Iron trade - The last almost at a stand still - quite as to profits. Another thing worked well for Taylor - very many decent good men here feeling that V.B. could not be elected, were frightened out of their wits at the thoughts of Cass & his quarrelsome uproarious gang of politicians coming into power - And lastly I hear many people say - & the Taylor papers all insist! - that Taylor is opposed to Slavery in the new States, & is publickly pledged to that effect! Webb & other Editors are already treating it as matter of course that Slavery is not to be disturbed in the Slave States - nor in the D.C. but that it is to go no further - In fact the Whigs are really claiming to be "Freesoilers" after their easy slippery way of doing things - In the meantime, doubtless the South will have their own way - as they have ever done by some dexterous jobbing & bribery of our "Northern brethren." But no more of politics - I am sick of them - As a remark of parting wisdom, I will only say that had the Democrats nominated less of a Bobadil than Cass - or the Freesoilers a less exceptionable man than V.B. Taylor would not have been President - For the rest, may the goodness of GOD overrule the crafty selfishness of men - & bring good out of Evil -

Give my best love to your dear little wife - I earnestly hope she is mending, & shall be most happy to hear of it when you or she can find time to let me know - Also I beg my kindest regards to kind papa & the "weekly dinner party" - & to brother Joe - I often think of you, & wonder what you are doing - At "your favorite compositae" (?) I have done no studying - but have distributed the plants you kindly gave me - I have had 2 or 3 sick days (general bad [illegible]) - but am now doing rather better, & am very Affy Yrs. J.C.

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